UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

PATRICIA MULLARKEY	:	
9508 Fordham Rd.	;	CIVIL ACTION
Philadelphia, PA 19114	:	
	:	CASE NO.:
Plaintiff,	:	·

v. : <u>JURY TRIAL DEMANDED</u>

PATRICIA REILLY FOOD CONCEPTS, INC. d/b/a BURITTO ELITO 9812 Falls Rd., Ste. 205 Potomac, MD 20854 and AIRMEALS-PHILADELPHIA, LLC d/b/a **BURITTO ELITO** 9812 Falls Rd., Ste. 205 Potomac, MD 20854 and **CATHY REILLY** c/o Patricia Reilly Food Concepts, Inc. and Airmeals-Philadelphia, LLC 9812 Falls Rd., Ste. 205 Potomac, MD 20854 and MARILU LEBEL c/o Patricia Reilly Food Concepts, Inc. and Airmeals-Philadelphia, LLC 9812 Falls Rd., Ste. 205 Potomac, MD 20854

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Patricia Mullarkey (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff" unless indicated otherwise), hereby complains as follows against Patricia Reilly Food Concepts, LLC, Airmeals-Philadelphia, LLC, Cathy Reilly, and Marilu LeBel (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Defendants"), and avers as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiff initiates the instant action to redress violations by Defendants of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, ("Title VII" – 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et. seq.), the Pregnancy Discrimination Act ("PDA"), the Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA" - 29 U.S.C. §§ 2601 et. seq.), and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act ("PHRA"). As a direct consequence of Defendants' unlawful actions, Plaintiff seeks damages as set forth herein.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. This Court, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1331, has jurisdiction over Plaintiff's claims, because this civil action arises under a law of the United States.
- 3. This Court may properly maintain personal jurisdiction over Defendants because Defendants' contacts with this state and this judicial district are sufficient for the exercise of jurisdiction over Defendants to comply with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice, satisfying the standard set forth by the United States Supreme Court in *International Shoe Co. v. Washington*, 326 U.S. 310 (1945) and its progeny. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state-law claim(s) because such claim(s) arise out of the same common nucleus of operative facts as her federal claims asserted herein.
- 4. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) and (b)(2), venue is properly laid in this district because all of the acts and/or omissions giving rise to the claims set forth herein occurred in this judicial district and Defendants are deemed to reside where they are subject to personal jurisdiction, rendering Defendants citizens of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
- 5. Plaintiff is proceeding herein under the Title VII/PDA and has properly exhausted her administrative remedies by timely filing a Charge of Discrimination with the Equal

¹ Plaintiff will move to amend her instant lawsuit to include claims under the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act once her administrative remedies are fully exhausted with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. Any claims under the PHRA though would mirror the instant Title VII and PDA claims identically.

Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") and by filing the instant lawsuit within ninety (90) days of receiving a notice of dismissal and/or right to sue letter from the EEOC.

PARTIES

- 6. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
 - 7. Plaintiff is an adult individual, with an address as set forth in the caption.
- 8. Defendant Patricia Reilly Food Concepts, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant PRFC") is a company that owns and operates a variety of restaurants, and is headquartered at the above-captioned address.
- 9. Defendant Airmeal-Philadelphia, LLC (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant Airmeal") is a company that owns and operates a variety of restaurants, and is headquartered at the above-captioned address.²
- 10. Defendant Entities are incorporated in Maryland. Both entities are identified as being headquartered at the same address as in the caption of this Complaint within the Secretary of State. Upon information and belief, these entities comprise one general operation and were a joint employer of Plaintiff during her period of employment with Defendant Entities.
- Upon information and belief, because of their interrelation of operations, common ownership or management, centralized control of labor relations, common ownership or financial controls, and other factors, Defendant Entities are sufficiently interrelated and integrated in their activities, labor relations, ownership and management that they may be treated as a single and/or joint employer for purposes of the instant action.

² Defendant PRFC and Defendant Airmeal are *hereinafter* collectively referred to as "Defendant Entities," unless otherwise indicated herein.

- 12. Defendant Cathy Reilly (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant Reilly") is upon information and belief a high-level Human Resources manager and a decision maker concerning terms and conditions of employment for employees (including Plaintiff) of Defendant Entities including but not limited to hiring, firing, and issuing discipline.
- 13. Defendant Marilu LeBel (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant LeBel") is upon information and belief a high-level manager and a decision maker concerning terms and conditions of employment for employees (including Plaintiff) of Defendant Entities including but not limited to hiring, firing, and issuing discipline.³
- 14. At all times relevant herein, Defendants acted by and through their agents, servants and employees, each of whom acted at all times relevant herein in the course and scope of their employment with and for Defendants.
- 15. Defendant Entities are "employers" within the meaning of the Title VII/PDA because, at all times relevant herein, Defendant Entities have employed at least fifteen (15) or more employees for at least 20 weeks during each calendar year of Plaintiff's employment with Defendant Entities.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 16. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
- 17. At all relevant times herein, Plaintiff was employed by Defendant Entities as a General Manager at Defendant Entities' 8800 Essington Ave, Pennsylvania location (hereinafter "Philadelphia Airport location").
 - 18. Plaintiff is female.

³ Defendant LaBelle and Defendant Reilly are *hereinafter* collectively referred to as "Defendant Individuals," unless otherwise indicated herein.

- 19. Plaintiff worked for Defendant Entities' Philadelphia Airport location for approximately one year and two months.
- 20. During Plaintiff's employment with Defendant Entities, Plaintiff was supervised by Defendant LeBel.
- 21. In or about March of 2013, Plaintiff informed Defendant Entities' management, including Defendant LeBel (Plaintiff's supervisor) and Defendant Reilly (Defendant Entities' HR manager) that she was pregnant and that she intended to take maternity leave (an FMLA-qualify leave) for the birth of her child.
- 22. At no point in time after learning of Plaintiff's intent to take maternity leave did Defendants inform Plaintiff of her individualized FMLA rights in accordance with FMLA regulations; thus, Defendants failed to follow proper notice, designation, and informational regulations of the FMLA.
- 23. After informing Defendant Entities' management of her pregnancy and intention to take maternity leave in March of 2013, Defendant Entities' management, including but not limited to Defendant Individuals, became hostile and expressed animosity towards Plaintiff.
- 24. The hostility and animosity that Plaintiff received from Defendant Individuals (as discussed *supra*) included but was not limited to giving her unwarranted and pretextual discipline and questioning her about her ability to perform her job duties while pregnant.
- 25. Shortly before being terminated from Defendant Entities (as discussed *infra*), Plaintiff complained to Defendant Entities' management, including but not limited to Defendant Individuals, that she felt as though she was being discriminated and retaliated against because of her pregnancy and request for maternity leave.

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- 26. In or about mid-April of 2013, shortly after informing Defendant Entities' management of her pregnancy and intent to take maternity leave and in close proximity to her aforementioned complaint of pregnancy discrimination, Plaintiff was terminated by Defendants for completely pretextual reasons.
- 27. Plaintiff was told that the reason for her termination was because of the issue surrounding her last write up, because she was a no-call/no-show on March 23, 2014, and because she told two employees (who were supervisors) to lie for her on March 23, 2014.
- 28. Plaintiff believes and therefore avers though that her termination was really premised upon her pregnancy and in retaliation for requesting an FMLA-qualifying leave, for reasons including but not limited to:
 - (1) Plaintiff's termination followed shortly after informing Defendant Entities' management of her pregnancy and intent to take maternity leave and in close proximity to her aforementioned complaint of pregnancy discrimination;
 - (2) Plaintiff maintains that she was not scheduled to work on March 23, 2014;⁴
 - (3) After inquiring as to whether Defendants' needed her help on March 23, 2014, Plaintiff was informed (by the same individuals that Defendants claim Plaintiff asked to lie for her) that she did not need to come in on such date;
 - (4) The issue surrounding Plaintiff's last write up had already been resolved prior to her termination; and
 - (5) Despite Defendants' handbook providing that an employee will be terminated if he/she is a no-call/no-show for <u>two</u> consecutive days, Plaintiff was terminated for allegedly missing only <u>one</u> day of work.

⁴ At Plaintiff's unemployment hearing, Defendants presented a work schedule with Plaintiff's name written in for March 23, 2013; however, Plaintiff maintains that she never saw that version of the work schedule prior to her unemployment hearing.

First Cause of Action Violations of Title VII/PDA

(Wrongful Termination - Gender/Pregnancy Discrimination/Retaliation) - Against Defendant Entities Only -

- 29. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
- 30. Plaintiff is qualified under the Title VII/PDA for protection because she was pregnant.
- 31. Plaintiff was terminated because of her pregnancy and/or because she complained about pregnancy discrimination.
- 32. Defendant Entities' action of terminating Plaintiff because of her pregnancy and/or complaints of pregnancy discrimination constitutes violations of Title VII/PDA.

Second Cause of Action Violations of the Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA") (Interference and Retaliation) - Against All Defendants –

- 33. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
- 34. Plaintiff was an eligible employee under the definitional terms of the FMLA, 29 U.S.C. § 2611(a)(i)(ii).
- 35. Plaintiff requested leave from Defendant Entities, her employer(s), with whom she had been employed for at least twelve months pursuant to the requirements of 29 U.S.C.A § 2611(2)(i).
- 36. Plaintiff had at least 1,250 hours of service with the Defendant Entities during her last full year of employment.

- 37. Defendant Entities are engaged in an industry affecting commerce and employ fifty (50) or more employees for each working day during each of the twenty (20) or more calendar work weeks in the current or proceeding calendar year, pursuant to 29 U.S.C.A § 2611(4)(A)(i).
- 38. Plaintiff was entitled to receive leave pursuant to 29 U.S.C.A § 2612 (a)(1) for a total of twelve (12) work weeks of leave on a block or intermittent basis.
- 39. Defendant Entities committed interference and retaliation violations of the FMLA by disciplining and later terminating Plaintiff: (1) for requesting and/or exercising her FMLA rights; (2) to dissuade Plaintiff from utilizing FMLA leave; (3) by considering Plaintiff's FMLA leave needs; and (4) to prevent her from taking further FMLA-qualifying leave in the future.
- 40. Defendant Individuals are personally liable because they aided and abetted the interference and retaliation and personally participated in the retaliatory and discriminatory decisions asserted herein (particularly with disciplining and terminating Plaintiff).
 - 41. These actions as aforesaid constitute violations of the FMLA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that this Court enter an Order providing that:

- A. Defendants are to be prohibited from continuing to maintain their illegal policy, practice or custom of discriminating/retaliating against employees and are to be ordered to promulgate an effective policy against such unlawful acts and to adhere thereto;
- B. Defendants are to compensate Plaintiff, reimburse Plaintiff and make Plaintiff whole for any and all pay and benefits Plaintiff would have received had it not been for Defendants' illegal actions, including but not limited to past lost earnings, future lost earnings, salary, pay increases, bonuses, medical and other benefits, training, promotions, pension, and

seniority. Plaintiff should be accorded those benefits illegally withheld from the date she first

suffered retaliation/discrimination at the hands of Defendants until the date of verdict;

C. Plaintiff is to be awarded liquidated or punitive damages, as permitted by

applicable law(s) alleged asserted herein, in an amount believed by the Court or trier of fact to be

appropriate to punish Defendants for their willful, deliberate, malicious and outrageous conduct

and to deter Defendants or other employers from engaging in such misconduct in the future;

D. Plaintiff is to be accorded any and all other equitable and legal relief as the Court

deems just, proper and appropriate including for emotional distress;

E. Plaintiff is to be awarded the costs and expenses of this action and reasonable

legal fees as provided by applicable federal and state law;

F. Any verdict in favor of Plaintiff is to be molded by the Court to maximize the

financial recovery available to Plaintiff in light of the caps on certain damages set forth in

applicable federal law; and

G. Plaintiff's claims are to receive a trial by jury to the extent allowed by applicable

law. Plaintiff has also endorsed this demand on the caption of this Complaint in accordance with

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b).

Respectfully submitted,

KARPF, KARPF, & GERUTTI, P.C.

Ari R. Karpf, Esquire

3331 Street Road

Two Greenwood Square

Suit 128

Bensalem, PA 19020

(215) 639-0801

Dated: January 21, 2014

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Patricia Mullarkey		•	CIVIL ACTION	
v.		•		
Patricia Reilly Food Concepts d/b/a Buritto Elito, et al.		•	NO.	
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SELECT ONE OF THE FOL	LOWING	CASE MAN	AGEMENT TRACKS:	
(a) Habeas Corpus - Cases bro	ught under	28 U.S.C. §	2241 through § 2255.	()
(b) Social Security - Cases req and Human Services denying				()
(c) Arbitration - Cases require	d to be desi	gnated for ar	pitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.	()
(d) Asbestos - Cases involving exposure to asbestos.	claims for	personal inju	ry or property damage from	·. () ·
the court. (See reverse side	mplex and	that need spe	cial or intense management by ed explanation of special	
management cases.)				()
(f) Standard Management – Cε	ises that do	not fall into	any one of the other tracks.	(X)
	Ari R. Karp		Plaintiff	
Date	Attorney	y-at-law	Attorney for	
(215) 639-0801	(215) 639-	4970	akarpf@karpf-law.com	
Telephone	FAX Nu	ımber	E-Mail Address	

(Civ. 660) 10/02

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to a assignment to appropriate calendar.	be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of			
Address of Plaintiff: 9508 Fordham Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114				
Address of Defendant: 9812 Falls Road, Suite 205, Potomac, MD 20854 Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Defendants place of business (Use Reverse Side For Additional Space)				
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a)	Yes No No.			
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes□ No.X			
RELATED CASE, IF ANY: Case Number: Judge	Date Terminated:			
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:				
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year.				
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior s	Yes NoD			
action in this court?				
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier r	Yes□ No□			
5. Does this case involve the valuely of miringement of a patent arready in suit or any earner terminated action in this court?	numbered case pending or within one year previously Yes \[\text{No} \Backslash			
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil right	ts case filed by the same individual?			
	Yes□ No□			
CIVIL: (Place / in one category only)				
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:			
1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts			
2. □ FELA	2. □ Airplane Personal Injury			
3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. Assault, Defamation			
4. □ Antitrust	4. Marine Personal Injury			
5. D Patent	5. D Motor Vehicle Personal Injury			
6. Labor-Management Relations	6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify)			
7. X Civil Rights	7. Products Liability			
8. □ Habeas Corpus	8. Products Liability — Asbestos			
9. Decurities Act(s) Cases	9. All other Diversity Cases			
10. □ Social Security Review Cases	(0110.5			
11. □ All other Federal Question Cases	(Please specify)			
(Please specify)				
ARBITRATION CERT	TEXCATION			
(Check Appropriate Co	ategory)			
I, Ari R. Karpf counsel of record do hereby certif	fy:			
□ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;	bener, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of			
Relief other than monetary damages is sought.				
DATE: 1/22/2014	ARK2484			
Attomey-at-Law	Attorney I.D.# 91538			
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if the	re has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.			
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court				
except as noted above.				
DATE: 1/22/2014	ARK2484			
Attorney-at-Law	Attorney l.D.# 91538			
CD1 400 (\$P0010)	91538			

©JS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08) Case 2:14-cv-00328-RK, Document 1, Filed 01/22/14 Page 12 of 12

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

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I. (a) PLAINTIFFS	DEFENDANTS			
MULLARKEY, PATRICIA	PATRICIA REILLY FOOD CONCEPTS, INC. d/b/a BURRITO ELITO, et al.			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Philadelphia	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Montgomery			
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, Telephone Number and Email Address)				
Karpf, Karpf & Cerutti, P.C., 3331 Street Road, Two Greenwood Square, Suite 128, Bensalem, PA 19020, (215) 639-0801, akarpf@karpf-law.com	NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED. Attorneys (If Known)			
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff			
□ 1 U.S. Government 3 Federal Question	(For Diversity Cases Only) PTF DEF itizen of This State			
☐ 2 U.S. Government ☐ 4 Diversity Ci Defendant (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	itizen of Another State			
	itizen or Subject of a 3 5 Foreign Nation 5 6 6			
IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)				
	HORIBITURE/DENAMENAL SEEDE BANKRUBTOLYSISSIS SEEDONTIJRESTAATUTESUSSIS			
120 Marine	610 Agriculture 620 Other Food & Drug 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 630 Liquor Laws 640 R.R. & Truck 650 Airline Regs. 660 Occupational Safety/Health 690 Other 710 Fair Labor Standards Act 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act 740 Railway Labor Act 740 Railway Labor Act 790 Other Litigation 790 Other Litigation 790 Other Labor Litigation 790 Other Labor Litigation 790 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act 651 Albeas Corpus Alien Detainee 465 Other Immigration Actions 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 480 Consumer 480 Consum			
ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Original 2 Removed from 3 Remanded from Proceeding State Court Appellate Court Reopened 5 Transferred from another district (specify) Appeal to District another district (specify) Appeal to District 1 Transferred from another district (specify)				
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): Title VII (42USC2000) and the FMLA (29USC2601) Brief description of cause: Violations of Title VII, the FMLA, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act and the PHRA.				
	DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes No			
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) (See instructions)				
Explanation: DATE SIGNATURE OF ATTE	ORNEY OF RECORD			
Print Save As Export	as PDF Retrieve PDF File Reset			

Reset